

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system includingcomprising:
a fuel cell body-(S);
a first portion (2) and a second portion (7) which form a passage (2a, 5, 6, 7d)
for hydrogen exhausted from the fuel cell body-(S); and
a hydrogen exhaust valve (3, 4) disposed in the passage (2a, 5, 6, 7d) between
the first portion (2) and the second portion (7),

characterized in thatwherein

_____ the first portion (2) and the second portion (7) are directly fixed to each other
and are both continuously supplied with heat from the fuel cell body-(S) following start up of
the fuel cell body-(S).

2. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system according to claim 1, wherein
_____ the first portion is a gas-liquid separation unit (2) supplied with heat from
inflowing exhaust gas from the fuel cell body-(S).

3. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system according to claim 1, wherein
_____ the first portion is an end plate provided in a stack configured by the fuel cell
body-(S) and supplied with heat liberated by the stack.

4. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system according to any one of claims 1 to 3claim 1, wherein
_____ the second portion is a hydrogen processing unit (7) supplied with heat from
inflowing exhaust gas from the fuel cell body-(S).

5. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system according to claim 4, wherein the
hydrogen processing unit is a dilutiondilution unit-(7).

6. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system according to claim 4, wherein
_____ the hydrogen processing unit is a combustion unit.

7. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system according to ~~any one of claims 1 to~~
claim 1, wherein
one of the first portion (2) and the second portion (7) includes a cover (7a)
formed with an internal space that accommodates the hydrogen exhaust valve (3; 4); and
the other one of the first portion (2) and the second portion (7) closes the
internal space of the cover (7a) within which the hydrogen exhaust valve (3; 4) is disposed.

8. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system according to ~~any one of claims 1 to~~
7claim 1, wherein
_____ a spring member (12; 13) is interposed between the hydrogen exhaust valve (3;
4) and one of the first portion (2) and the second portion (7) to urge the hydrogen exhaust
valve (3; 4) against the other one of the first portion (2) and the second portion (7).

9. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system according to ~~any one of claims 1 to~~
7claim 1, wherein
_____ the hydrogen exhaust valve (3; 4) is fixed to the first portion (2) and the
second portion (7).

10. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system according to ~~any one of claims 1 to~~
9claim 1, wherein
_____ seal mechanisms (8, 9; 10, 11) are respectively interposed between the
hydrogen exhaust valve (3; 4) and each of the first portion (2) and the second portion (7).